



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice

Public Notice Number: SPK-200701059-UO

Date: 7 December 2007

Comments Due: 7 January 2008

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application to construct the I-15 Widening from 500 North to I-215 project, which would result in impacts to approximately 2.63 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, in or adjacent to the Jordan River. This notice is to inform interested parties of the proposed activity and to solicit comments. This notice may also be viewed at the Corps web site at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html>.

AUTHORITY: This application is being evaluated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States and under Section 401 for Utah water quality certification.

APPLICANT: Utah Department of Transportation
Region Two Headquarters
Attn: Mason Palmer
2010 South 2760 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104-4592
Tel: 801.975.4900 Fax: 801.975.4841

LOCATION: The project site is located in Salt Lake City, Sections 2, 11, 14, 23, 26, 35 and 36, Township 1 North, Range 1 West, SLB&M, Salt Lake County, Utah, and can be seen on the Salt Lake City North USGS Topographic Quadrangle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is proposing a 4.5-mile-long project to widen Interstate 15 between mile markers 309.1 and 313.6. The project would widen I-15 in both north- and south-bound directions to accommodate an additional lane from 500 North to the northern intersection of I-215 and I-15. Southbound I-15 would be widened from three to four lanes between MP 309.1 and 313.6. Northbound I-15 would be widened from three lanes to four lanes between MP 309.1 and 312.1. The southbound bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad and Beck Street would be replaced with a new, realigned bridge able to accommodate five lanes. The northbound bridge would be rehabilitated to last an additional 15 years and accommodate three lanes of traffic. Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to reduce traffic congestion. The applicant believes there is a need to provide more lanes so traffic congestion will be reduced and to remedy infrastructure and geometric deficiencies. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Environmental Setting. There are approximately 17.28 acres of mainly palustrine emergent wetlands within the project area. The project site is characterized by the I-15 Right of Way, which is surrounded by residential community and industrial/commercial developments.

Alternatives. The applicant has not provided information concerning project alternatives. Additional information concerning project alternatives may be available from the applicant. Other alternatives may develop during the review process for this permit application. All reasonable project alternatives, in particular those which may be less damaging to the aquatic environment, will be considered.

Mitigation. The Corps requires that applicants consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources. If the applicant is unable to avoid or minimize all impacts, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation. The applicant has proposed to utilize 2.63 acres of the remaining 7.81 acres of the Galena Mitigation Banking Site. This banking site is located between the Galena Canal and Jordan River in Draper.

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS: Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, water quality certification or a waiver is required from the Utah Division of Water Quality for this project. The Utah Division of Water Quality intends to issue certification provided that the proposed work will not violate applicable water quality standards. Projects are usually certified where the project may create diffuse sources (non-point sources) if waste which will occur only during the actual construction activity and where best management practices would be employed to minimize pollution effects. Written comments on water quality certification should be submitted to Ms. Shelly Quick, Utah Division of Water Quality, 288 North 1460 West, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870, on or before **January 7, 2008**.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: Based on the available information, cultural resources not are within the project's area of potential effect.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project will not affect any Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat that are protected by the Endangered Species Act.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed project will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The above determinations are based on information provided by the applicant and our preliminary review.

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR Part 230).

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials,

Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: Written comments, referencing Public Notice SPK-200701059-UO must be submitted to the office listed below on or before **January 7, 2008**.

Hollis Jencks, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Utah Regulatory Office
533 West 2600 South, Suite 150
Bountiful, Utah 84010
FAX: 801-295-8842
Email: hollis.g.jencks@usace.army.mil

The Corps is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic environment and the secondary and cumulative effects. Anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. If the Corps determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. If you have questions or need additional information please contact the applicant or the Corps' project manager, Hollis Jencks at 801-295-8380, ext. 18, or email: hollis.g.jencks@usace.army.mil.

Attachments: 11 drawings